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J. Thomas
1-3-02

PATENT
Attorney Docket No.: JHU1220-4

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Lee and Esquela Art Unit: 1646
Serial No.: 09/361,655 Examiner: P. Mertz
Filed: July 27, 1999
Title: METHODS OF DETECTING A LIVER DISORDER (Amended)

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

In connection with the Request for a Continued Prosecution Application submitted herewith, entry of the amendments and reconsideration of the application in view thereof and of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 CFR §1.10 "EXPRESS MAIL" Mailing Label Number: <u>EV 016 236 596 US</u> Date of Deposit: <u>December 20, 2001</u>	
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<u>Aldon Griffis</u> (Name of Person Mailing Paper)	
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In re Application of
Lee and Esquela
Application No.: 09/361,655
Filed: July 27, 1999
Page 2

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Attorney Docket No.: JHU1220-4

A. AMENDMENTS

Please cancel claim 16 without prejudice.

Please amend claim 15 to read as follows:

SJF 1
E 1

15. (Thrice amended) A method of detecting a liver cell proliferative disorder,
comprising
contacting an antibody that specifically binds to growth differentiation factor-12
(GDF-12) polypeptide having an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:12 with
a liver specimen from a subject under conditions suitable for formation of a complex; and
comparing the amount of complex in the liver specimen to the amount in a control
sample, wherein a difference is indicative of a liver cell proliferative disorder.